

FAQ: Targeted Enhancement Fund (TEF): Technological Sector & Specialist Colleges

1. Institutional Applications

1.1) *Is the TEF only for publicly funded Irish HEIs and privately funded institutions are not eligible?*

The TEF is only open to institutions in the technological sector and publicly funded specialist colleges, which are set out in **Section 2** of the [TEF call document](#). As per the call document, only the following institutions are eligible to apply for funding:

- Atlantic Technological University
- Dún Laoghaire Institute of Art, Design and Technology
- Dundalk Institute of Technology
- Munster Technological University
- South East Technological University
- Technological University of the Shannon: Midlands Midwest
- Technological University Dublin
- Mary Immaculate College
- National College of Art and Design

1.2) *Regarding TUs, what costs can be included in the TEF from an RDI perspective?*

As per **Section 3 Table 1** of the [TEF call document](#), only Specialist Colleges may propose costs under the 'research capacity building' cost category. TUs/IoTs should not request any funding from TEF under the 'research capacity building' cost category as TU RISE is in place to support research-related initiatives.

1.3) *Is funding for professorships eligible under the TEF call?*

As per **Section 3 Table 1** of the [TEF call document](#), the TEF makes provision under the 'staff development' cost category for 'Planning for the implementation of the OECD review of Technological University academic career paths, contracts and organisation in Ireland and Academic Career Framework'.

1.4) *What capital spend is permissible under TEF? While the purchase of land and buildings is not an eligible cost, are capital upgrades such as upgrading sports facilities, teaching labs or lighting considered eligible costs?*

As per **Section 3** of the [TEF call document](#), costs relating to the purchase of land or buildings are ineligible. In relation to costs related to the fit out or upgrade of teaching and learning/student spaces, institutions should consider if proposed deliverables are relevant to the strategic theme/cost category 'student outcomes and experience', where the following indicative activities are listed in **Section 3 Table 1** of the [TEF call document](#):

- Initiatives to diversify methods of engagement and support a wide range of students to participate in the life of the institution.
- Initiatives to support student progression and retention at institution, faculty, or discipline level.
- Development and enhancement of student representation, clubs, societies, and alumni networks.

Institutions should ensure that the proposal clearly identifies specific deliverables, including those related to proposed fit out of teaching and learning/student spaces.

1.5) *For individual institutional proposals under the TEF call, what is the level of co-funding expected by the HEA?*

The appropriate level of co-funding is a matter for the institution to determine based on the activities proposed and institution's context. As per **Section 5** of the [TEF Call Document](#) the TEF is designed to contribute towards the strategic development and enhancement of eligible HEIs, and, as a time-limited fund, has an emphasis on the financial sustainability of proposed initiatives and institutions' self-sufficiency. To this end, the HEI's approach to, and consideration of institutional co-funding and consideration of project sustainability, including plans to mainstream activities, will be considered as part of the assessment process (see [TEF Call Document](#), Appendix 1 (p. 13).

1.6) *Regarding Section 4 of the call document that states 'include the institution's monetary contribution to the project only'. Are the salary costs of staff, who will be assigned to work on the project, included in this definition?*

Where an institution proposes to allocate and ring-fence funding for salary costs for posts needed to deliver the TEF project, this can be included as co-funding, as long as there is no intention for the posts to be funded by TEF and the amount specified in the budget accounts for the monetary value of the salary costs only (i.e. staff time should not be included). Please note that the TEF provides project funding, not institutional core support.

As per **Section 5** of the, [TEF Call Document](#) institutions should give appropriate consideration to the financial sustainability of activities after the funding period concludes. Particular attention should be given to the institution's ability to assume responsibility for any costs relating to staff

that it may wish to retain beyond the funding period. Institutions will be responsible for funding commitments that extend beyond the timeframe of the fund or exceed the approved project budget.

1.7) Are stipends to non-research students and undergrads eligible under the TEF call?

As per **Section 3** of the [TEF Call Document](#), all activities proposed by a HEI under the TEF must align with one or more of the strategic themes and cost categories set out in Table 1. As per Section 3 Table 1, the TEF makes provision under the “Student outcomes and experience” cost category with examples provided of indicative enhancement activities. Therefore, in its application the HEI should satisfy itself that any proposed costs align with these strategic themes, cost categories and indicative activities.

Please note, eligible institutions may only submit one application per HEI and each application must be signed by the Head of Institution prior to submission.

2. Collaborative Applications

2.1) As "Eligible HEIs may participate in no more than two collaborative submissions", will there be separate provision for TUs to be involved in a sectoral proposal(s), e.g. development of TUA, digitalisation project involving all five TUs, etc.?

Will institutions be allowed to participate in two collaborative projects and in sectoral projects (if they are proposed and agreed) involving all five TUs?

As per **Section 4** of the [TEF Call Document](#), “Eligible HEIs may participate in no more than two collaborative submissions” – this condition applies whether it is a collaborative project e.g. involving a small number of HEIs or a sectoral project i.e. involving all HEIs.